

BRINGING HOPE TO CHILDREN: EVALUATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNSELLING PROGRAMME



YVETTE HOBBS
MNZAC

TONY WESTBROOK
WAIKATO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW OF PILOT PROJECT



- Counselling service across four Primary schools
- Rural community
- Main aim is to provide counselling services to children, from the four Primary schools, with a focus on early intervention

BACKGROUND



History of ideas that led to the counselling service being implemented:

- **increase in violent behaviour**

“teachers being hit and kicked and head butted”

- **high levels of emotional need**

- **current services available in Primary schools were not meeting all of the needs of the children**

“the interventions that we have, like RTLB and SWIS, simply are in no way geared up to meet the needs we are seeing”

PURPOSE OF EVALUATION



Evaluation divided into two parts:

Phase One (Formative)

- To ascertain the effectiveness of the establishment of the counselling service

Phase Two (Summative)

- To measure the effectiveness of the counselling service

EVALUATION STRATEGIES



- Formative
 - Feedback
 - Collaboration
- Summative
 - Results

SAMPLING



- Formative
 - Purposive sampling
- Summative
 - Purposive sampling
 - Saturation sampling

PARTICIPANTS



Formative:

- Principals
- Service Provider Staff
 - Project manager
 - Counsellor
 - Social Worker
- Funder

PARTICIPANTS



Summative:

- Principals
- Service Provider Staff
 - Project manager
 - Counsellors
 - Social Worker
- Boards of Trustees
- Community stakeholders

DATA COLLECTION



- Formative:
 - Semi-structured Interviews (qualitative)
 - Hui (qualitative)

DATA COLLECTION



- Summative:
 - Semi-structured Interviews (qualitative)
 - Focus Groups (qualitative)
 - Database (quantitative)

DATA ANALYSIS



- Formative:
 - Thematic Analysis (qualitative)
- Summative:
 - Thematic Analysis (qualitative)
 - Statistical Analysis (quantitative)

DISCUSSION OF KEY FINDINGS



Challenges:

- Communication
- Geographical location
- Long term sustainability

DISCUSSION OF KEY FINDINGS



Strengths:

- Collaboration
- Early intervention
- Engagement of child, family/whanau and school context
- Multi-disciplinary team approach

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT



- Process of consultation
- Accessibility of the counselling service
- Value placed in the counselling service

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



- The children and their family/ whanau that are utilising the counselling service
- Counselling service provider
- Schools and wider community
- Project Funder
- Wintec



“The future belongs to those who
give the next generation reason
for hope.”

(Pierre Teilhard De Chardin)

REFERENCES



Bendelow, G., & Mayall, B. Children's emotional learning in primary schools. *European Journal of Psychotherapy & Counselling*, (2002), 5(3), 291-304.

Rooney, R., Roberts, C., Kane, R., Pike, L., Winsor, A., White, J., et al. The Prevention of Depression in 8- to 9-Year-Old Children: A Pilot Study. *Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling*, (2006), 16(1), 76-90.

Sherr, L., Bergenstrom, A., & McCann, E. An audit of a school-based counselling provision for emotional and behavioural difficulties in primary school children. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, (1999), 12(3), 271-284.